REMARKS

This amendment is being filed simultaneously with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). This Amendment serves as a Submission under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 are amended. Various amendments are made to the claims for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

The Office Action dated February 28, 2008 rejects claims 1, 4-6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,363,422 to Hunter et al. (hereafter Hunter) in view of U.S. Patent 7,099,934 to Ewing et al. (hereafter Ewing). The rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Independent claim 1 recites a master including a communication module connected to said at least one slave, the master for periodically receiving the current operation state information output from said at least one slave, a memory storing the received current current operation state of said at least one slave and a processor checking the state of said at least one slave and transmitting to said at least one slave the stored operation state information when the master determines that said at least one slave has been reset. Independent claim 1 further recites that said at least one slave is restored to a latest state and performs an operation according to the operation state information transmitted from the master.

The applied references do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 1. The Office Action (on page 3) states that Hunter does not disclose providing state

information to the slave when the slave is reset. The Office Action then cites Ewing for features relating to rebooting (such as in case of a system lockup).

Hunter and Ewing do not teach or suggest "a master including a communication module connected to said at least one slave, the master for periodically receiving the current operation state information…and a processor checking the state of said at least one slave and transmitting to said at least one slave the stored operation state information when the master determines that said at least one slave has been reset" as recited in independent claim 1.

Hunter does not provide information regarding whether a device has been reset. The Office Action (in Item 4) states that applicant does not state his opinion regarding whether Hunter provides a master's stored operation state <u>during other problems</u> (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully notes that the claims relate to "said at least one slave has been reset." The Office Action's comment does not relate to the claimed features. Likewise, Ewing does not provide information regarding whether a device has been reset. The Office Action also states that applicant admits that Ewing teaches providing state information, but only that it is a back up rather than a stored operation state. Applicant has not made this alleged statement (as the statement in the Office Action is best understood). As stated above, Ewing relates to features of rebooting (such as after a system lockup). This differs from the claimed features of a processor checking the state of said at least one slave and transmitting the stored operation state information when the master determines that said at least one slave has been reset.

Ewing describes a network that includes a power manager connected to control power modules each of which is able to independently control a power on/off status of several

network appliances. See Ewing's Abstract. Ewing's power modules report to a power manager a power status of each network appliance so that such appliances <u>may be rebooted</u> according to preset power-up conditions that may be determined locally. Ewing's system merely controls an on/off power status. The Office Action (on page 3) also cites various sections of Ewing. However, none of these cited sections suggest the features discussed above.

The applied references do not teach or suggest transmitting to said at least one slave the stored operation state information when the master determines that said at least one slave has been reset as recited in independent claim 1. As stated above, Ewing relates to performing a rebooting process (such as in case of a system lockup). Ewing's rebooting does not suggest the claimed transmitting when the master determines that said at least one slave has been reset. Hunter also does not disclose transmitting stored operation state information when the slave has been reset.

Hunter and Ewing also do not teach or suggest the newly-claimed features that said at least one slave is <u>restored to a latest state and performs an operation according to the operation state information transmitted from the master</u>.

Hunter and Ewing do not teach or suggest these specifically claimed features relating to "periodically receiving" and/or "the at least one operation state being variable after powering said at least one slave." The Office Action does not address these specifically claimed features.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Hunter and Ewing do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 6 recites outputting, from the at least one slave, operational state information indicative of at least one operation state of the at least one slave, the at least one operation state being variable after powering the at least one slave, and periodically receiving at the master, the operation state information output from the at least one slave to determine a current operation state of the at least one slave and to determine whether the at least one slave has been reset. Independent claim 6 further recites storing, in the non-volatile memory, the operation state information of the at least one slave, and transmitting the stored operation state information from the master to the at least one slave when it is determined that the at least one slave has been reset. Independent claim 6 also recites that said at least one slave is restored to a latest state and performs an operation according to the operation state information transmitted from the master.

For at least similar reasons, Hunter and Ewing, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest transmitting the stored operation state information from the master to the at least one slave when it is determined that the at least one slave has been reset. Hunter and Ewing also do not teach or suggest "periodically receiving at the master, the operation state information...to determine whether the at least one slave has been reset" as recited in independent claim 6. Hunter and Ewing also do not teach or suggest that said at least one slave is restored to a latest state and performs an operation according to the operation state information transmitted from the master. Thus, independent claim 6 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 9 recites a communication module, connected to the at least one slave, for periodically receiving the operation state information from the at least one slave, memory for storing the operation state information of the at least one slave, and a processor for periodically checking a current operation state of the at least one slave to determine whether the at least one slave has been reset and the processor for transmitting the stored operation state information to the at least one slave when it is determined that the at least one slave has been reset. Independent claim 9 also recites that said at least one slave is restored to a latest state and performs an operation according to the operation state information transmitted from the master.

For at least similar reasons, Hunter and Ewing, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest transmitting the stored operation state information to the at least one slave when it is determined that the at least one slave has been reset. Additionally, Hunter and Ewing do not teach or suggest a processor for periodically checking a current operation state of the at least one slave to determine whether the at least one slave has been reset. Hunter and Ewing also do not teach or suggest that said at least one slave is restored to a latest state and performs an operation according to the operation state information transmitted from the master. Thus, independent claim 9 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 1, 6 and 9 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

For example, each of dependent claims 5 and 8 specifically relates to a home appliance. Dependent claim 5 recites that said at least one slave is a home appliance, and dependent claim 8 recites that said master is a home appliance. See also independent claims 1, 6 and 9 reciting a home network system. The Office Action does not address these specifically claimed features regarding a home appliance. When discussing independent claim 1, the Office Action references Hunter's col. 1, line 1-col. 5, line 55. However, this cited section has no discussion or suggestion for any type of home appliance in a home network system. Ewing also does not teach or suggest these features. Hunter and Ewing, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that a slave or a master is a home appliance. Thus, dependent claims 5 and 8 define patentable subject matter at least for this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 4-6 and 8-10 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.
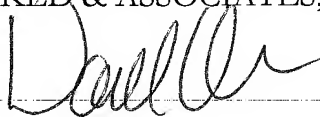
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and

please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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